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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 9, 11, and 22 have been amended and claims 4-7, 14-21 and 23-26 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 8-13 and 22 have been rejected as anticipated by, or in the alternative, as obvious over Berding (USP 5,936,803).

Applicants note the comments regarding the relative dimensions of the shock limiter 166 of Berding and have deleted the language regarding the majority of the length of the shock limiter previously added by amendment to the independent claims. Applicants have amended the independent claims of this application to reinserted the limitation where the shock limiter is formed from the same piece of material as the spring region of the load beam, and have added the limitation that the shock limiter is without additional mass, in contrast to Berding. Figures 2A, 3A, 5A, 8 and 8A of Berding all show schematic or mass-spring diagrams illustrating the added mass feature of Berding. The Berding limiters 166 are formed at the end of a balancing member 160 and have added mass, shown in Figure 3 as balancing mass 164 added to the shock limiter of Berding. In contrast, Applicants' shock limiter as presently claimed is formed solely of the material of the spring region, with no added mass. Applicants' design provides for economies and efficiencies in the design and manufacture of head suspensions without the need for calculating, installing and controlling an added mass to the shock limiter.

Claims 1, 11 and 22 and claims depending, respectively therefrom, are allowable for the above reasons.

Claim 9 has been amended to now recite that the shock limiter directly contacts the base plate when the shock limiter is limiting movement of the head suspension away from the disk surface due to impact loading. This is in further contrast to the shock limiter of Berding which contacts the load beam layer, and does not contact the base plate directly. Claim 9 is allowable for this reason in addition to the reasons stated with respect to claim 1.

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In addition to the reasons stated above, each of the dependent claims is allowable because each recites at least one limitation such that the combination of limitations of each such dependent claim is not taught or suggested by the art of record.

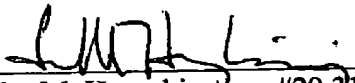
Conclusion

All pending and not withdrawn claims are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, applicant submits that if generic claims 1-3, 11 and 13 are allowed, the non-elected species covered by these generic claims are also allowable. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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